



FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL

It was a lot of fun chasing the FT5ZM DXpedition. I managed 5 band slots, but none of them included 10 or 15 meters. Several members of the club also joined in the hunt successfully, Alan, San, Ken, Frank and Gordon. Hope I didn't miss anybody.

We missed the last Young Eagles day at the airport due to the bad weather. The next one is on March 9.

Its not too early to be thinking about our Hamfest event this April 26. We will need the usual team to make it a success.

Ask, Ken, about his new radio that does the new digital format.

Our last VE session was on Jan. 25. We had three candidates, one upgraded to Extra, one passed both Technician and General exams and the third got her Technician.

We are always looking for meeting programs. If you know of any or would like to do one yourself, please let me know.

Remember to check in on the Wednesday night nets. We like to hear from you and you can get all the club updates. Moe, KI6JNU, is net control for March. We need net control stations for April, June, July, Aug, and Sept.

Another reminder, please pay your annual dues if you have not done so.

See you on the air.

—73, Jim, K6UUW

NEXT MEETING

February 19, 7:30pm
McDougall Hall at the SDC in Eldridge

Topic: "What is a Country?"
Presenter: San N7PIB

Minutes January 15, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 7:34ish PM by our esteemed President, Jim Hill, K6UUW

Members present at the meeting were:
K6UUW, (Jim), KD6FIL (Dave), KG6QNT (Eileen), KG6N (Frank), NJ6E (Stan), KI6JNU (Moe), KA2QQO (Declan), KJ6QIQ (Scott), KF6FZM (Dick), N6KM (Ken), W1EJ (Ed), K6KLL (Alan), N7PIB (San), WD6BOR (Darrel)

Guests: AL2M (Jim), Zachary Hamill, Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services

There were no minutes for the December Christmas Party.

Report from officers:

President: Vice President, Frank KG6N, is moving to a place in Napa on the 18th and is stressing over getting a station in operation to work Amsterdam island when it comes on the air around January 24th..

Treasurer, Eileen, KG6QNT: we currently have \$2484.77 dollars in the bank. Dues are due and we have collected over \$180 so far this year.

ACS: A Level 2 training was held at Timber Cove on Saturday, January 11 and there is

another training scheduled for February 8. Kevin Berger is a new ACS member and he lives in the Glen Ellen area. A new ACS roster has been mailed out. ACS Roster/Frequency business cards were passed out. There is an add to Line 15 of the card. Frequency 440.200 is a repeater with a positive offset and a PL of 88.5. The County is moving forward with a lowband repeater on Mount Jackson. It should be operational in the spring and will provide much improved lowband coverage for the EOCs.

Secretary: Dave, KD6FIL: Insurance certificates for the hamfest have been received. (sent to the City of Sonoma and the County on January 20).

Website: Is current and looking good. K6UUW had a few updates which he emailed to Eileen.

Training: 18 students attended the last session. Thanks to WD6BOR and VOMARC, the soldering stations are being to good use.

Old Business

Radios for New Hams: K6UUW went to an ARRL meeting and the FCC gave a presentation on the Chinese radios. The FCC is very down on these radios. They have a lot of issues and can send off a lot of spurious signals. The club does have 2 Yaesu radios to loan out to new hams. One of the radios has been loaned to Suzanne, KK6CGQ. It was decided to hold off on purchasing any additional radios until we have some new hams in the club that need assistance.

Radio Replacement: The FT950 display issue is limiting the use of the radio. At Young Eagles on January 12, Gordon W6DDU, brought his Kenwood TS590 down. It worked very well and was easy to read the display in bright light. The other radio the club is looking at is the Yaesu FT1200. Both these radios sell for approximately \$1500.

Young Eagles: Gordon W6DDU, brought his Kenwood TS590 down for the demonstration station. Gordon had a portable antenna to test as well. There was a problem with the tuner, fortunately W1EJ had a spare. The first contact was on CW to Rarotonga. Not bad for a portable setup. The next one is February 9.

New Business

VE Session: VE Session at McDougal Hall on January 25.

City of Sonoma ACS Liaison: Fire Chief Garcia is the new ACS Liaison.

The next meeting is February 19.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.

The program for the evening was video of a DXpedition to Conway Reef in 2012.

—Respectfully submitted, Dave KD6FIL

DX: Amsterdam Island FT5ZM DXpedition Concludes Operation

The FT5ZM DXpedition has shut down, although the trip home remains. That news may be welcome to non-DXers who have been contending with huge and sometimes chaotic split-operation pileups that occasionally occupied substantial segments of spectrum, but depressing for operators who were unsuccessful in snagging this rare one. The Amsterdam Island DXpedition team logged on the order of 165,000 contacts on SSB, CW and RTTY. AA4SC had the honor of completing the final FT5ZM contact -- on February 12 at 0220 UTC. Amsterdam Island is the seventh most-wanted DXCC entity, according to the ClubLog DXCC Most Wanted List.
(from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

Legends Premiers Quiz #2

By Jim Schock

You may or may not remember when some old radio shows first began, but you can test your guessing skills below. a. 1934 b. 1950 c. 1937 d. 1948 e. 1928 f. 1940 g. 1938 h. 1937 i. 1955 j. 1933



1. Kraft Music Hall



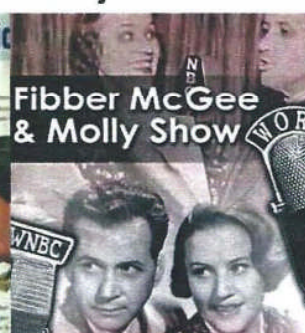
2. Monitor



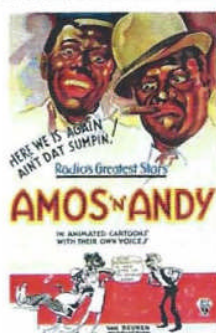
3. Bergen & McCarthy



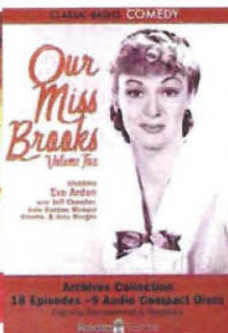
4. Information Please



5. Fibber & Molly



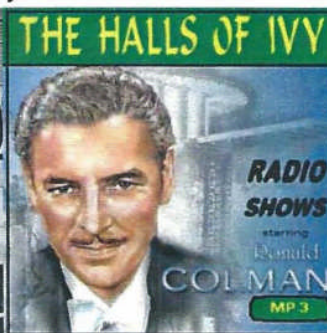
6. Amos 'n Andy



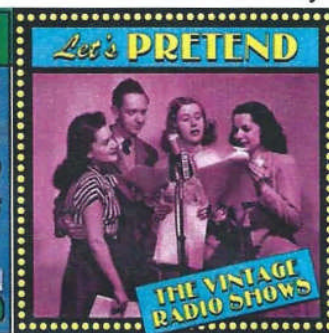
7. Our Miss Brooks



8. The Line Up



9. The Halls of Ivy



10. Let's Pretend

Answers: 1-j, 2-i, 3-h, 4-g, 5-f, 6-f, 7-d, 8-b, 9-b, 10-j (We cheated, there are two b's.)

Provided by Alan, K6KLL, from the Broadcast Legends Newsletter "Fall 2013." Created by Jim: Schock and used with his permission, Enjoy.

ON CALL

—by Ken N6KM, ACS Unit Leader

Frequencies and such:

Marin Repeaters:

A colleague in Marin saw our ACS page on VOMARC.ORG and called to my attention some changes in Marin. Thanks for the tip.

The repeater on Big Rock ridge in Novato is now on 147.300 which was the Mt. Tam repeater. The PL tone remains 203.5 The 147.330 repeater is temporarily on San Pedro Ridge in San Rafael with a PL of 173.8. Eventually, Mt Tam will have 147.330 on and San Pedro Ridge will go quiet. The goal is to have three repeaters on 147.300 and located in three parts of Marin County with different PLs.

Sound complicated? It is a bit but look at www.w6sq.net/new_repeater.htm and you will find the whole thing explained clearly. The

changeover is going to take six months or so. The 146.700 repeater is heard well here in Sonoma for the most part.

Our EOC radios:

Soon the Kenwood commercial radios in the EOC will be re-channelized. The goal is to not have any Amateur Radio channels on the same radio as public service. There has been some confusion when calls where given. In Sonoma EOC this means we are down to one two-meter radio (the dual-band Alinco DR605T) and it appears we will need to get another two-meter radio to be able to handle our local frequencies.

When this happens, I will let you know so we don't get blind-sided by a change without our knowing about it.

BE SURE that you do identify with the proper amateur call at least every ten minutes and not just the tactical call when on amateur frequencies. Likewise, be sure not to use our

ham calls when operating public service such as the Sheriff Six channel.

Repeater Frequency Program:

Keeping up with new and changed repeater frequencies can be time-consuming. If you have an I-Phone or Android based phone, you have a reasonable option. The program Repeater Book is available either free or for 99 cents, I forget which. This program will look up the repeaters in your area and make a list for you. You can let the program use your GPS position and it will tell you the repeaters you have available in your area. The parameters can be set by you to report only certain bands, a specified radius, those with Echolink or D-Star, etc. It is quite fast and accurate. I think you can also find the same information on your desktop or laptop. Check out www.repeaterbook.com and see what great information is there.

ON CALL needs:

This column is intended to provide ACS members with good information needed to carry out the ACS program. Please let me know if you would like to write about a topic for the column or have a subject you would like covered in it. Thanks.

Ham Cram:

Good for amateur radio or no?

—by Dan KB6NU

I've been teaching one-day Tech classes, often referred to as "ham cram" classes for several years now. As a result, a couple hundred people now have amateur radio licenses. I'm proud of that, but sometimes a doubt or two creeps in. The doubts come from whether or not I'm teaching the students enough.

I also sometimes think about whether or not, my No-Nonsense study guides (www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual) should have more technical content. Recently on my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I've been posting sections of the next edition of my No-Nonsense, Technician Class License Study Guide. One comment reads,

"Oh my, now I see why my beloved USA is falling behind in math/technology/university on

the world stage. Lack of rigor brings down real world knowledge and this sad trend plagues our country at every level. Your book helps students pass the exam but not learn proper physics."

The commenter is right about my study guides not trying to teach students about math or physics. There are many other books out there that do that. I disagree, though, that my study guides and my one-day classes are part of a "sad trend."

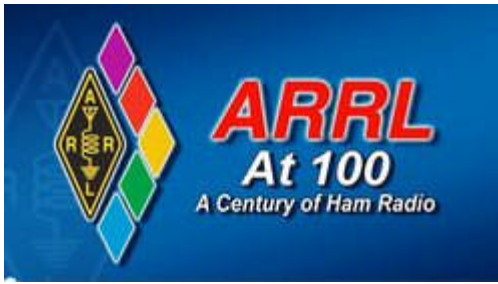
For one thing, an amateur radio license is not a degree in electrical engineering. Not only that, the Technician Class license is the very first rung on the amateur radio ladder. So, the question is how much knowledge should we require of someone just starting out in our hobby/service?

Secondly, I always stress that an amateur radio license is really a license to learn, and getting a Tech license is only the first step in a lifelong learning journey. I've been a ham a long time, and I'm constantly learning new things. And, I'm learning them because I have an amateur radio license. Without the privileges that my license gives me, I wouldn't be able to do the things I'm doing to learn them.

I sometimes regret that I can't teach people more during my one-day classes, but when you get right down to it, there's only so much you can expect. I know that a lot of my students have gone on to get General Class and Extra Class licenses and have turned in to great amateur radio operators. Presumably, they've learned a lot in the process.

Having said all that, I'm curious as to what you think about this? Are ham cram classes good for amateur radio? If not, what else should we be doing to help people get involved and enjoy amateur radio?

When he's not teaching class, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and building kits. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



ARRL Centennial: A Century of Amateur Radio and the ARRL

—by Al Brogdon, W1AB

American hams won high praise for their considerable help to the military during the Great War. However, at the end of the war, hearings in Congress began on an effort to put all radio matters under the control of the US Navy. It was expected that the Navy would abolish Amateur Radio -- despite the debt owed to hams for their war service.

ARRL President Maxim and representatives of many of the large radio clubs in the country attended the hearings and spoke against the proposed legislation. The ARRL called on its membership and on families of hams killed in action to speak out in opposition to the bill, which they did -- in large numbers, and with emotional pleas. So, despite a strong effort to push the bill through, it died in committee and never reached the floor.

On April 12, 1919, five months after the armistice was signed, the US Navy Department announced that the ban on amateur receiving would be lifted, but that the ban on transmitting would continue until the President of the United States officially announced that a state of peace existed.

Three months later, on July 24, the Navy tried again. The Secretary of the Navy wrote the President of the Senate, asking that legislation be enacted to give the Navy a monopoly on all oceanic and international radio communication. This effort was also defeated by the combined forces of American radio interests, including the efforts of the ARRL.

In August, the Navy again postponed the removal of the ban on transmitting by hams. A bill was introduced in Congress to force the Navy to lift the ban. Finally, under the threat of

congressional action, the Navy, on September 26, 1919, lifted the transmitting ban and ceded authority over radio matters to the Department of Commerce. Amateur Radio was back in business!

In this year-long overview of the first 100 years of the ARRL, I've lingered over the early years simply because of their great importance. Without the early efforts of the League, its officers, and its members, we likely would not have Amateur Radio as it is today. Perhaps there would be no Amateur Radio at all.

Now we'll move on through our retrospective at a faster pace. Hams get on the air again! Technology makes great strides! The ARRL continues its leadership roll. Stay tuned! (from ARRL Newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

On the Air: ARRL Field Day Information Packet Now Available

The 2014 Field Day packet is now available. ARRL Field Day is the most popular on-the-air event. It takes place each year in the US and Canada on the fourth weekend in June, when thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, in groups, with friends, or by themselves to operate "in the field" to simulate an emergency communication situation.

Part of the Ellsworth (Maine) Field Day 2013 operation. [Rick Lindquist, WW1ME, photo]

In 2013, the ARRL received more than 2500 Field Day entries, representing participation by more than 36,000 radio amateurs who completed in excess of 1.2 million individual contacts on CW, phone, and digital modes.

Field Day 2014 is June 28-29, and it's not too early to start planning. The Field Day Locator will help you find a Field Day site near you. Rules in Spanish also are available. E-mail ARRL Headquarters for more information, or call 860-594-0236. (from ARRL newsletter)

—submitted by Jim K6UUW

THE VOMARC WIRELESS VOLUME 18 EDITION 2

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon
Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF
Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Jim Hill, K6UUW – President, Training Officer

Frank Wiebusch, KD6KVL—Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – ACS Unit Leader

Sanford Smith, N7PIB – VE Liaison

Jim Hill, K6UUW – Elmer Coordinator

Ken McTaggart, N6KM – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Webmistress, Editor

*Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC—S. Marler.*

CLUB MEETINGS are held on the third Wednesday of
each month at McDougal Hall at the Sonoma
Developmental Center, Eldridge or the City of Sonoma
Police Department EOC 175 1st St West. Meetings start
at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30
P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350
repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

ACS holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on
the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

PACKET STATION INFO: The VOMARC packet station
is off the air until further notice.

CLUB BREAKFASTS are held on the first Saturday of
each month at Palms Grill (formerly Issa's) Restaurant,
18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at
09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

c/o Sonoma Police Department
175 First Street West
Sonoma, CA 95476

**2014 ACS
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	SCOTT	KI6QIQ
APRIL		
MAY		
JUNE		
JULY	CRAIG	KF6QZP
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WD6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2014 VOMARC
Net Control Assignments**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
FEBRUARY	JIM	K6UUW
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	WIEJ
JUNE		
JULY		
AUGUST		
SEPTEMBER		
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 19, 2014, 7:30 PM AT THE CITY OF SONOMA EOC,
175 1ST ST W, AT THE SONOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT.
SEE YOU THERE.**

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP

VOMARC 2014 Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.
QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC: \$ _____ Complimentary with Class--Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting.

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC.**